

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-1

WASHINGTON POST  
20 October 1983

## Agencies Get Green Light For Lie Tests

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Reagan administration has given all government agencies the green light to require random lie detector tests for officials with access to especially sensitive information, even if they are not suspected of unauthorized disclosures.

The new policy was enunciated at a House subcommittee hearing yesterday by Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard K. Willard, architect of the administration's controversial program of cracking down on leaks of classified information.

He said random tests would be useful in screening government employees cleared for so-called Special Access Programs, "to determine whether they have disclosed such information either to foreign agents or to others not authorized to receive it." Willard said it would be up to individual departments and agencies to decide whether they want to institute such a program, but he said it would be regarded as an "appropriate" counterintelligence device.

The Defense Department, according to another witness, already is prepared to "greatly expand" polygraph examinations at the Pentagon, including random tests of individuals with SCI (Sen-

sitive Compartmented Information) clearances.

House Government Operations Committee Chairman Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), who presided at the hearing, vowed to continue his campaign against polygraph testing. Under an amendment that Brooks helped tack onto the current Defense Department authorization bill, the Pentagon already has been ordered not to change its polygraph policy until April 15.

"I'm going after that amendment again next year," Brooks warned. Richard G. Stillwell, deputy undersecretary of defense for policy, He added that Senate allies were trying to fashion another restrictive amendment that would be "broad enough to cover all government agencies." It may be offered as a rider on the State Department authorization bill.

Willard told a reporter during a break that he doubted that the State Department has plans to institute random polygraph tests, but indicated that some special units at the Justice Department may be inclined to do so.

Willard described his 49 pages of prepared testimony as "the first comprehensive enunciation of polygraph policy throughout the government," but Brooks kept Willard waiting for hours while others testified, urged him to give a quick summary when he was called, and said he would submit any questions for written response.

The controversy over President Reagan's campaign against leaks flared last March when he issued a directive, drafted by Willard, requiring every federal employee with a security clearance to sign a nondisclosure pledge and to submit to lie detector tests if asked.

The new order also required all those with SCI clearances to sign special agreements binding them, for

life, to submit writings that might contain sensitive information, even if unclassified, to government censors.

Kenneth J. Coffey of the General Accounting Office testified that there are 112,660 SCI-cleared federal employees and another 15,090 contractor employees who would be subject to lifetime censorship, not counting those in the CIA and the National Security Agency where prepublication review agreements are standard practice.

A special GAO study showed that Reagan's March 11 directive would affect 2.5 million federal employees, about half of the 5.1 million civilian and military personnel, and another 1.5 million contractor employees.

The GAO study found 328 known unauthorized disclosures of classified information at agencies other than the CIA and the NSA, but apparently only two involved Sensitive Compartmented Information and thus might have been deterred by the prepublication review agreements.

Former undersecretary of state George W. Ball told the subcommittee that the Reagan directive was "an appalling document" which "would require the establishment of a censorship bureaucracy far larger than anything known in our national experience."

"As a lawyer, I would fire a young attorney who drafted it," Ball declared as Willard sat in the audience. "I think it's an absurdity."

Other testimony dealt with conflicting opinions on the validity of the lie detector test. Dr. John H. Gibbons, director of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, said an exhaustive survey showed that "there is no scientific evidence to establish the validity of polygraph testing for screening a large number of people in connection with the investigation of unauthorized disclosures. There has been no research on this type of application."

"The instrument itself cannot de-

**E | CONTINUED**